



MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, California 90012

Director of Mental Health

At its meeting held February 24, 2004, the Board took the following action:

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The following statement was entered into the record for Supervisor Antonovich:

"Fee-For-Service mental health contract providers have expressed frustration about the unorganized technical assistance the Department of Mental Health has given during the transition of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), as well as the providers concern of nonpayment for Medi-Cal services rendered to patients. Other complaints include, Department of Mental Health technical assistance staff providing inaccurate information, unrealistic due dates, and constant changes to client information forms.

"The Director of Mental Health has concurred that there are problems in the way technical assistance is handled due to the informational changes given to the Department by State and Federal agencies as it relates to HIPAA compliance."

Merritt Holloway addressed the Board.

After discussion, at the suggestion of Supervisor Antonovich and on motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, seconded by Supervisor Burke, unanimously carried, the Director of Mental Health was directed to:

1. Work with County Counsel and the Auditor-Controller to develop a provisional payment schedule for Fee-For-Service providers until the Department of Mental Health's internal system is fully functional and report back to the Board within 14 days; and

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8 (Continued)

2. Establish a Technical Assistance Workgroup that includes the Internal Services Department and Fee-For-Service providers to create a plan to improve technical assistance and effective communications about Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) compliance, billing and payment processes.

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